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Most of the contributions received have been in sums of five, ten and twenty dollars, though not a few were in sums of one, two and three dollars. Only a few have been in amounts of one hundred dollars and more. Gifts of any amount will be most gratefully received. We ask all our friends to consider very seriously what their individual duty and privilege may be, at this most important juncture, towards this greatest movement now before the world. All checks or money-orders should be drawn to the order of the American Peace Society.

### Editorial Notes.

#### The Next Peace Congress.

At the meeting of the Commission of the International Peace Bureau at Berne, on February 3, the date of the seventeenth International Peace Congress at London was fixed for the week beginning July 27 and ending August 1. The prominent subjects which figure in the program announced are: Report of the Peace Bureau on the Events of the Year; Questions Relating to the Second and Third Hague Conferences — Neutrality, Obligatory Arbitration, the Organization of the Hague Conference, etc.; the Organization of International Life, Politically, Economically and Intellectually; the Limitation of Armaments; International Instruction; Propaganda, in the Universities, the Religious Bodies, the Labor Organizations; a Fund for International Peace Work, etc. The Commission added to the nucleus of a committee appointed at Munich for the study of the question of limitation of armaments, G. H. Perris of London, Dr. A. Gobat of Berne, Mr. Emile Arnaud of Luzarches (France), Dr. E. Giretti of Italy, and Dr. O. Umfrid of Stuttgart, Germany. The members of the Commission appointed at Munich were Fredrik Bajer of Copenhagen, A. H. Fried of Berlin, J. F. Green of London, Edwin D. Mead of Boston, Gaston Moch of Monaco, E. T. Moneta of Milan, and J. Novicow of Odessa. The Commission decided to have three new committees added to those which have heretofore had charge of preparing the business of the Peace Congress. If this project is adopted by the Congress, there will hereafter be six committees, namely, on Current Questions, International Law, Propaganda, Disarmament, Education, and Labor Questions.

#### Armaments' Race Afresh.

The *Nation* (London), speaking of the fresh outbreak of rivalry in the building of battleships, says:

"But there is a second reason for regretting the government's decision to maintain and increase the navy estimates, a decision whose fruit will assuredly be seen next year in a heavy advance. It brings us perceptibly nearer a conflict with Germany. It is not enough to suggest, as the king's speech suggests, that

the political relationship of the two countries is much improved. That is true, but the fact remains that when the late government entered on 'Dreadnaught' building, it opened the race of armaments afresh. The German revised shipbuilding program was an answer to that reopening and to the French imitation of it. It grew out of the senseless policy of building a fleet so large and powerful that it almost dominated the world. But for that prepossession we might have paused when we had a fleet so strong that the German admirals would not have ventured to put to sea against it. But we were not satisfied with that superiority. We must needs go on from strength to strength.

"Now the failure of the Hague Conference — for failure it is — and our insistence on the right of capturing commercial ships in time of war, further accentuate the veiled and polite but real rivalry of the two nations, and will almost certainly involve a prolonged contest in the building of marine monsters even more powerful than the 'Dreadnaught.' Germany must bear her full share of responsibility for this serious confrontation, and we entirely repudiate Admiral von Tirpitz's suggestion, during the debate on the naval estimates in the Reichstag, that any English journal approves her new naval program. He may say, as we say, that it represents a work of defense, not of defiance. All statesmen use this language about their national armaments. But it is the acts, not the words, of diplomatists that count, and here are these two countries committed to a long strain on their finances, for ends which are mutually provocative, and yet lack a single ground of policy or interest to excuse resort to them. It will be a grave reflection on the moral strength of a liberal government if it suffers final defeat on this question of armaments, and, while our naval security is as absolute as Sir John Fisher declared it to be a few months ago, allows its experts to master it without any resort to diplomatic methods. The contest in shipbuilding might go on without peril of war if one could be sure that peaceful and sensible statesmen would always be at the head of affairs in England and Germany. But we have no such guarantee; and Herr Bebel was well-advised to warn Germany and Europe that it might suffer a sudden and bloody interruption."

#### No War With Japan.

Various distinguished public men have within the past month expressed themselves on the question whether or not there is likelihood of war between Japan and the United States. Secretary Taft, Hon. Joseph H. Choate and others have spoken positively and hopefully from the American point of view, but the feeling in Japan is just as sure and optimistic as our own.

This fact was lately confirmed by an interview with Prof. Sakuyei Takahashi of the Imperial University of Tokio, a distinguished authority on international law, and a reliable observer of the times. Professor Takahashi is traveling around the world to study international conditions and acquire knowledge that may help in preventing future international misunderstandings.

He has declared that war between Japan and the United States is an utter impossibility, and that Japan even stands ready to extend a royal welcome to the Pacific fleet if it should go to the Far East.

"I find in some quarters of your country," he says, "an impression that a few political parties in Japan are agitating war with the United States. That impression is utterly wrong. All Japan is firm in the belief that no serious trouble can arise between our country and the United States. Here, it is true, I have heard talk of possible hostilities, but I am sure that that talk was wholly in irresponsible quarters. The real sentiment in America, as I find it, carries a strong friendship for my country, and I am sure that sentiment is reciprocated there among all classes of people.

"I found, for instance, that the difficulties on the Pacific Coast were far more imaginary than real. Other immigrants seemed to be jealous of the Japanese, and that led to friction and trivial difficulties, which, when the labor unions took cognizance of them, were much magnified by sensational newspapers. I am sure that, with the restrictions the Japanese government is preparing to enforce in this matter, there will be no ground for further trouble.

"So far as the Philippines are concerned, Japan does not want them. In the first place, we are too poor to buy them just now. Then, too, if we could get the islands, these holdings would seriously derange our economic conditions."

Whatever malignant rumors may be afloat among newspapers, and whatever dark suspicions may have been aroused by the speeches of Captain Hobson, our minds should be perfectly tranquil on this frequently recurring suspicion of war.

**Neutralization of Norway and Honduras.** What amounts to the neutralization of Norway by four great European powers has recently taken place. On the 12th of February the treaty was made public which had been previously signed between France, Great Britain, Germany, Russia and Norway guaranteeing the independence and territorial integrity of Norway. The treaty provides that Norway shall cede to no power any part of her territory, and the signatories agree to recognize the integrity of Norway and to act in concert in her support in the event of her being menaced by any power. This agreement probably will prove as effective in the maintenance of Norwegian independence as if all the European powers were parties to it. But it must be confessed that at this day, when the nations are more and more moving together, it would have been more in harmony with the spirit of the time if all the powers, at least all of those of Europe, had been asked to join in the neutralization. The same is true in regard to Honduras, which has been neutralized by the action of the recent Central American Peace Conference at Washington. The independence of this

Central American state would be much more certain to hold if North and South American governments were back of the guarantee, than will be the case with only the four Central American states, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Salvador, supporting it. So long as these states remain at peace with each other, which it is hoped they will do under their new agreement, Honduras will probably have its independence and neutrality respected, but if they should fall out with one another, Honduran neutrality might quickly become a figment.

**Heroism Imperishable.**

It has been proved thousands of times over, and new proofs come every day, that it is not necessary to keep up the war system in order that heroism may stay in the world. War may, and does, furnish heroism with opportunities to show itself; but the heroism does not depend upon war. It is inborn. It manifests itself everywhere and at all times. It needs only the right circumstances to bring it out. It is to be found in the civilian as well as in the soldier, in peace as well as in war; in the civilian and in peace more conspicuously and of a vastly higher order than in the soldier and in war. Brave heroes stand on the deck of ocean liners, braver than ever stood behind the guns of a battleship or charged a line of infantry. It is in such a perilous emergency as that of the burning of the *St. Cuthbert* recently, whose brave sailors fought a hopeless battle with fire, and were rescued by the first officer and crew of the *Cymric*, that the heroic nature of man is conspicuously displayed. No; whatever may be said for war heroism, there is not the shadow of necessity of war to create brave men. There are plenty of them without it. They exist wherever human need and suffering and peril appeal to men. They have always so existed, and will continue so to exist when the last rifle has been fired at a human being and the last warship has fired the last murderous shell at a group of fellowmen. Only then, when men are finally ruled and impelled by love and moral incentives, will the truest and most genuine types of *human courage* appear.

### News From the Field.

The Texas State Peace Society is now fully organized with the following officers, all of whom have accepted their appointment:

Honorary Presidents: Hon. Joseph D. Sayers, ex-Governor of Texas, Austin; Hon. S. W. T. Lanham, ex-Governor of Texas, Weatherford; Hon. T. M. Campbell, Governor of Texas, Austin. President: Dr. S. P. Brooks, President of Baylor University, Waco. Vice-Presidents: George W. Carroll, Beaumont, Philanthropist, Business Man; Sam Sanger, Waco, Business Man; Nat. M. Washer, President Business Men's Club, San Antonio; Hon. R. L. Henry, Waco, Member of United States